REASONS

Offer'd to the Consideration of the

Worthy Citizens of London,

For Continuing the PRESENT

LORD-MAYOR

For Another Year.

(Price Six-pence.)

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For Another Year.

Dii tibi, si qua pios respectant numina, si quid Usquam justitiæ est, & mens sibi conscia recti, Præmia digna ferant.

VIRGIL. ÆNEID.

LONDON:

Printed for J. ROBERTS, in Warwick-Lane; and A. Dodd, at the Peacock, without Temple-Bar.

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REASONS

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Worthy CITIZENS

Of LONDON, &c.

HOUGH it must be granted, that nothing contributes more towards the Sasety and Preservation of a Free People, than annual Elections of their Officers and Magistrates,

yet'tis no less true, that some Incidents may intervene to render a Dispensation with that excellent Law, absolutely necessary.

No People in the World were more jealous of their Liberties, than the Romans,

whi

while the Common-Wealth remained, most of their great Magistrates being chose every Year; there are, however, several Instances in their History, of some who were continued in their Offices longer than the usual Terms prescribed by Law: 'tis true, such extraordinary Favours were never granted, but when those on whom they had been conferred, were engaged in some great and important Designs, which could not be so well accomplished by others, or in remembrance of some eminent Services, performed for the City, or the Common-Wealth.

If ever any Magistrate had a Title to the Favour and Benevolence of his Fellow-Citizens; if any Magistrate, I say, had a just pretence to a continuance of Power and Office, 'tis the present Lord Mayor of London: since no one ever exerted himself more strenuously, in all Stations of Life, in defence of the Liberties of his Country, and the Privileges of the City of London, or was more assiduous in promoting Justice, or reforming Abuses.

The Happiness of the City depends intirely upon a continuation of his Lordship's

Power

Power for another Year, to enable him to perfect the great and laudable Designs of reforming Abuses and Irregularities, which he has so happily begun.

That is the Scope of these Sheets; and I am persuaded there is no Man of Candor, Disinterestedness or Penetration, that casts his Eye upon the dissolute State of the City of London, but must conclude that the great work of its Resormation can never be accomplished in the Compass of a sew Months; and tis an Observation of a very antient Date, that great Enterprizes are never well sinished by any, but those who formed them.

I am well apprized that many Objections will be made against this Design, which I shall endeavour to obviate in a proper place; but before I proceed surther, it will be necessary to remove one Objection, that has some Air of Popularity; that is, that this Attempt would introduce an Innovation, and break in upon the Order of Election already established in the City.

Far be it from me to engage in any thing, that should interfere with the Welfare and Repose of the City, since I may presume to say, none has both more sincerely at heart: 'tis that Consideration alone that has induced me to write these Sheets, being thoroughly persuaded, that nothing can contribute more effectually towards obtaining those happy Ends, than continuing the present Lord Mayor in his Office for another Year.

As for the Order of Election of Mayors in the City, we must observe, that 'tis an Establishment of a fresh Date; and tho' it may be attended with some Advantages, yet, furely, none will maintain, that 'tis unalterable, fince that would tend manifestly towards depriving the Citizens of one of their most valuable Privileges; they are the sole Judges of the Qualifications of fuch Aldermen as are fit for the Chair; nor can any thing be more just and reasonable: for should that Order be unalterable, the Consequences must be very pernicious. 'Tis true, those Gentlemen who are now below the Chair are Men of Probity and Wealth; but the time may come when we may have a Set

Honesty, without Merit; and yet they must in their turns sill the Chair, should this Order of Election remain irrefragable. But this is such an Absurdity, as no Man of common Sense or Prudence will maintain: and 'tis well known, that it was broke in upon a few Years ago, in the Attempt made to elect Sir Françis Forbes, before Sir Gerard Conyers; and that another Alderman has been postponed, for no other Reason but his Poverty.

It is obvious, then, from what has been now observed, that the Citizens of London have an incontested Right to dispense with the present Order of Election of Mayors, and that for the most pregnant Reasons; and as they may exercise that power against any Alderman, for Demerit, Delinquency, or Poverty, so they have an undoubted Privilege of continuing or re-electing the Lord-Mayors, or any other of the City-Officers, which is frequently done in the case of the Chamberlain and others.

The last Instance, if I remember right, of re-electing the same Person into the Office

fice of Mayor, was that of Sir Tho. Pilkington; the motives for that high Honour was his Opposition to the Court-Measures in the Reign of Charles II.

Tho' there's nothing farther from my Intention, than to infinuate any thing that should derogate from the Merit of that worthy Knight; yet, in my opinion, there's no parallel between it, and that of the prefent Lord Mayor; who has, thro' a long Series of Years, distinguish'd himself, in all Stations of Life, in the Service of his Country, and this Great City, in particular.

In private Life, as a Trader and a Merchant, he was always candid and generous, without any Spirit of Contention and Strife; often chusing rather to give up just Pretensions, than to enter into Law-suits and Controversies with his Neighbour.

As an Alderman, no one has been more affiduous, or more vigilant, having never suffer'd his own private Affairs to come in competition with his Duty and Attendance upon the Affairs of the City.

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As a Senator, he was always present on every important Debate in the House. The vigorous Efforts he made to oppose all Attempts upon the Constitution of the Kingdom, and the Rights of the Citizens of London, deserve the highest Encomium; nor was he less distinguish'd for his unwearied Endeavours to pass the many good Laws, which have been made fince he had the Honour to fit in Parliament; particularly those for preventing the Combination of the Dealers in Coals; for regulating Attorneys; for having the Law in English; for regulating Juries; for preventing the pernicious Practice of Stock-Jobbing; and that for the better lighting the City. Nor was his Zeal less fervent in promoting the Pension-Bill; and several others which tended very much to the Publick Good. His many excellent Speeches upon all great Debates in the House, discover such Strength of Reasoning and manly Eloquence, as forced Applause even from his Adversaries.

But as I have no other End in this Effay, than to give a summary View of his Lordship's great and eminent Services to his Country,

Country, and his Fellow-Citizens, for a long Series of Years; I will confine myself to two of his Lordship's Discourses, in the last Session of the last Parliament; the first against misapplying any part of the Sinking Fund, which was intended by Parliament for discharging the Debts of the Nation; and the other against the dangerous Excise-Scheme. The Pretence for taking l. 500000 from the Sinking Fund, was to ease the Landed Interest.

As to the Question now before us, Sir, it affords me a most melancholy Considetion, that the Landed Interest, as well as every other, stands in need of Relief: I allow, that by what Mr. C-r of the E r now proposes, the Landed Interest may meet with fome immediate * Ease; and that it may, in our present Circumftances, be agreeable to the Creditors of the Publick: but while I am a Member of this House, I am not to consider the immediate Ease of the Landed Interest 'in particular, nor the present Pleasure of the Publick Creditors, BUT THE WEL-FARE OF THE NATION IN GENERAL, BOTH AS TO THE PRESENT, AND TO 'FUTURE

FUTURE TIMES: and as I am convinced that what is now proposed will, at long run, be contrary to the Interest of the Nation in general, I must give my Disfent.

'In all Affairs, we are to have a due re-' gard to Posterity, we are in Honour and Duty bound to confider the future Happiness of the Nation, as well as the prefent: and the Question now is, whether we shall give present Ease of one Shilling in the Pound to the Landed Interest, by ' unjustly loading our Posterity with the Payment of 1. 500000, and the Interest thereof, from this present Year; or whether we shall continue to pay the one Shilling in the Pound, Land-Tax, and thereby free the Nation of a Debt of 1. 500000, and the growing Interest, for the ' fake of a present trifling Ease to ourfelves.

'If the Landed Interest, or any Interest could be reliev'd by reducing the Publick Expence, it would redound to the Glory of the Author of a Scheme for that end; but to ease ourselves by loading our Po'sterity, is a poor Temporary ExpeC 'DIENT

DIENT OF SHORT-SIGHTED, OR SELFINTERESTED POLITICIANS; and the
Author of such an Expedient must expect
the Curses of Posterity, and can never
expect present Thanks from any, but such
as are as short-sighted, or as self-interested
as himself.

I hope, Sir, I shall not now be taxed with Popularity, or speaking provincially, or as a Member of the City of London, as I have often been, on other Occasions: for as to the present Question, I consider it intirely in a National View; as a Memof this House, I shall always look upon myself as one of the Representatives of the · People of Great Britain; and I hope every Member of this House will always do the same. I hope it will never be in the power of any Man, to make the Gentlemen of the Landed Interest range them-' felves in Opposition to the Trading Interest: but if ever fuch a wicked Defign ' should take effect, if the Members of this House should ever be brought to speak and vote provincially, or as Members for Cities, Boroughs, or Counties, if the former were to join against the latter, 'tis easy to de-' termine

termine on what fide the Majority would be. The Honourable Gentleman who made the Motion, now feems to aim at the Affectation of Popularity amongst the Landed Gentlemen; this I am really fur-' prized at, confidering how often he has taxed me and others with the Affectation of Popularity, as a most heinous Crime.

'The Creditors of the Publick are, Sir, perhaps, at present unwilling to be paid off, because they have a greater Interest for their Money, than they can have any where else: if a considerable part of their Debts were to be paid at once, and a reasonable Notice given of such Pay-' ments being to be made, they would then make fuch an Arrangement of their Affairs, as to dispose of their Money to as ' good an Advantage for themselves, and ' much more to the Advantage of Trade; but in the present Methods, the Payments ' are fo small, and the Warning so short, that many of them do not know how to ' dispose of the small Sums they receive, ' and therefore they are unwilling to receive ' any in that manner; but whatever their their Inclinations may be, 'tis certainly

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the Interest of the Nation, to have them all ' paid off, and the sooner the better; therefore on part of what is appropriated to their ' Payment ought to be converted to any other Use. Their Unwillingness to receive Payment, is so far from being an Argument against paying them, that it shews they have a better bargain from the Pub-'lick, than they can have in the same way from any other Perfon; and therefore, if it were possible to borrow Money at a ' lower Interest, or to add to the Sinking ' Fund, the Publick ought certainly to do it; in order to pay off those, who are ' now Creditors of the Publick, at so high ' a yearly Interest.

'I hope, Sir, it will be thought I am incere in what I say, since I am in every respect speaking against my own private Interest. I have a part of my Estate in Land, otherwise I could not have a Seat here; and as a Land-holder I ought, if I consider'd my own Private Interest, to be for reducing the Land-Tax. I have another part of my Estate in the Publick Funds, and so ought to be as fond as of there of not being paid off, and of having

ing as high an Interest as possible from the Publick. And the remaining part of my Estate I have in Trade; as to which also I speak against my own Interest, for as a Trader I ought to speak against paying off the Publick Funds, because the Inrerest of Money will be reduced by it: and tho' it may feem a Paradox, yet 'tis certain, that the higher the Interest of ' Money is, the greater Profit the private Trader will always make. In a Country where the Interest of Money is high, the 'Traders will be few, the general Stock in Trade will be small, but every Trader must make a great Profit of what Money he has in Trade.

Mayor was pointed against the pernicious Excise-Scheme, so well known in Great Britain. The Motives for that Scheme were to prevent Frauds in the Trade of Wine and Tobacco; but it was apprehended by the Gentlemen who opposed it, and particularly the Lord Mayor, that all other Branches of Commerce would in time fall under Excise-Laws, which would subvert the Constitution. Of which nothing can

t a first Secritors, but the wind

give us a clearer Idea, than the following pathetick Speech of his Lordship.

When the Honourable Gentleman, Sir, 'is prepared to lay his Scheme before us, 'I hope he will move for fome general Com-' mittee; if he does, I shall not give the House any trouble : but if he moves for a Committee to consider the Frauds in any particular Branch of the Revenue, I will take the liberty to oppose it, because there are Frauds in every Branch. I must think, Sir, that attaching our Enquiries at present, to the Frauds committed in any particular Branch, is like fingling out a Deer from the Herd to be bunted down; the is to be the first Sacrifice, but the whole Herd is to be hunted down at last. This, I believe, Sir, is the Cafe; and if I have been ' rightly inform'd, this very Scheme, in its first Conception, was for a general Alteration of the Method of collecting the Revenue, it was for a GENERAL EXCISE; but that, it feems, was afterwards thought too much, at once, and therefore we are ' now to fingle out only one or two Branches. in order that they may be first HUNTED Down: but the very same Reason that

Branch of the Revenue to the Laws of Excise, may afterwards prevail with us to subject every Branch to those arbitrary Laws; and as such Laws are, in my Opinion, ABSOLUTELY INCONSISTENT WITH LIBERTY, I must think that the Question upon his Scheme, even alter'd, as it seems it is, will be, Whether we shall endeavour to prevent Frauds, in collecting of the Revenue, at the Expence of the LIBERTIES OF THE PEOPLE.

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'For my own part, Sir, I never was guilty of any Fraud, I put it to any Man, be he who he will, to accuse me of so much as the Appearance of a Fraud, I am resolved never to be guilty of any. Frauds ' are indeed a very great Prejudice to all fair Traders, and therefore I speak against 'my own Interest, when I speak against any · Method that may tend to prevent Frauds, but I shall never put my private Interest in ballance with that of the Nation. ' HAD RATHER BEG MY BREAD FROM ' DOOR TO DOOR, AND SEE MY COUN-TRY FLOURISH, THAN BE THE GREAT-'EST SUBJECT IN THE NATION, AND SEE

SEE THE TRADE OF MY COUNTRY DE-

CAYING, AND THE PEOPLE ENSLAV'D

AND OPPRESS'D.

I will not entertain the Reader with any more of his Lordship's Speeches, since this alone gives us such a Portrait of his Greatness of Soul, Love of his Country, and Disinterestedness, as cannnot be parallel'd in the Lives of the most celebrated Greeks, or Romans.

As his Lordship in private Life always acted the part of an honest Man, which is the highest Dignity of human Nature; and in the Senate, that of an Englishman, and a Citizen of London; so we may well expect an Uniformity of Conduct and Manners in his Magistracy,

It is a just Observation, that the Magistrate shews the Man; and 'tis certain, that of all the Characters of this Life, it challenges the most profound Abilities and most exalted Virtues.

It was said of a great Roman, that he was a good Man, but a bad Citizen, Vir bonus,

bonus, civis malus; that is, that he was very upright in the common Dealings of Life, but at the same time, Ambitious and Tyrannical in Power.

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How happy is the City that is governed by a Magistrate, who has perform'd all the Duties of a private Man, and exercised his Authority with the greatest Moderation; and to no other Ends, than to promote Religion and Morals, discourage Vice and Prophaneness; relieve the Poor and the Needy, and prevent Oppression and Fraud!

Let us now take a short Survey of his Lordship's Conduct in his Mayoralty, and we shall perhaps discover more Traces of great and noble Designs, than for thirty Years past.

As all Power should begin with promoting the Service of God, so the present Lord Mayor has under severe Penalties, prohibited some servile Works that unreasonable Custom had render'd too common, on Sundays, in this City, to the very great scandal of Religion.

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As Justice claims the next place to Religion, his Lordship has given the most signal proofs of his Zeal for promoting it, by appointing two Aldermen to attend daily at Guild-Hall, to hear and determine the Complaints and Controversies of the People, without Fee, Reward, or Delays; whereas it was but too well known, that before this excellent Regulation, People were often at a loss for a Magistrate, even in cases of Emergency.

There is another Advantage no less important, resulting from this new Regulation; that is, that the City will be more free from the Tyranny of Trading Justices, which was come to a monstrous height, and become a great Disgrace to the Dignity of the City.

His Lordship's Assiduity and Humanity in procuring the Act for fixing the Price of Coals, entitles him to the highest Applause of the Rich as well as the Poor.

His Candor and Probity in punishing Offenders against the Gin A&, are equal to every

every other part of his Conduct; he discouraged the Abuse of spirituous Liquors, without countenancing Swearing and Perjury.

As I do not intend this Essay for a Panegyrick upon his Lordship, so I will wave entering upon a Detail of many other Eminent Services performed by his Lordship for the City, or rather for the Kingdom; of which 'tis an Epitomen fince his Mayoralty. But alas! what will they all avail, if we should be deprived of him before he has cemented them by his Authority and Example? Can any one imagine that his great and noble Defigns can gain Ground or be brought to Perfection in a few Months? The Evils and Abuses that have stole into the City are of fo long a date, that they may, almost, pretend to Prescription: they are indeed become too stubborn and inveterate to be removed without much Time, Application and Integrity; or I may fay, without the same great Genius that portray'd the Defign of reforming them.

We have an elegant Discourse of Macenas's to the Emperor Augustus, on the Subject of Magistrates, where he tells that Prince,
that no Magistrates should continue less than
three Years *; for says he, should they be
removed sooner, they could not well remember
what they had learnt, or performed in their
Office: or we may say, they could not in
the space of a few Months, sinish the noble Designs they had delineated.

The only Objection that remains against continuing the present Lord Mayor in his Office for another Year, is the Injury that may result from it to the Gentleman next the Chair, according to the Order of Election.

I have before endeavoured to prove, that the Citizens of London have an undoubted Right to chuse or continue their Mayors at pleasure, and that that Order is an Infringement upon their Privileges. And as to the Injury

^{*} Ne citò amoti, Specimen ejus quod didicerunt reddere non possint. Dion. Cass. lib. 52. Historiar.

Injury to the Alderman next the Chair, I am fully convinced, he will not look upon it in that Light: Whoever confiders his laudable Conduct in Parliament on all Occasions, his strenuous Endeavours against the pernicious Excise-Scheme, and all others that seem'd to interfere with the Interest of his Country, must conclude that no Motives will ever prevail with him to put his private Interest in the Scales, with the Reformation and Welfare of the City of London.

It is a false Proposition, That one Man has as great a Genius as another; we have daily Proofs of the contrary Truth. Men may have the same good Inclinations, but not the same sublime Abilities. We have seen, in our own days, several Mayoralties pass away without one Act of Beneficence, without one Act of publick Charity or Justice.

If any thing were wanting to recommend the present Lord Mayor to the favour of his Fellow-Citizens in continuing him in his Office another Year, the remembrance of their chusing him in three fucceeding Parliaments will be fufficient, the remembrance of fixteen Years eminent Services, so detrimental to his private Affairs, his constant Attendance in Parliament upon all Emergencies, and at unseasonable Hours, by which his Health has been impaired, may intitle him to the highest Favours of his Fellow-Citizens, who will soon feel the happy Effects of prolonging his Authority, which will render him capable not only of compleating the great Defigns which he has already fet on foot, but of concerting others for reforming Enormities and Abuses, promoting Religion and Justice, and defending the Oppress'd from Combinations, from Injuries, Frauds and Violence.

The good Example which the present Lord Mayor has given to other Magistrates in the Kingdom, must be enumerated amongst his great Services to the Publick; since 'tis of all Arguments the most powerful, in reforming Mankind.

'The Law, says a learned French Author, commands, prohibits, permits, punishes; inishes; but when Example proceeds from the same Source, that is, from the Magifirate or Ruler, it commands Virtue by practicing it; prohibits Vice by shunning it; without words, it propagates what is lawful, by Exercise; it makes all Men see the Equity of Punishments, by avoiding what the Law pronounces Criminal, and the Justice of Gratitude by dispensing Rewards.

'The Law has Judges, Officers, Execu'tioners, Tribunals, Gallows and Gibbets,
'to enforce its Decrees; but Example has
'no other Instruments but Mildnes, Al'lurements, Sweetness, Love and Reason;
'yet it reduces Men sooner under its Em'pire, thus naked and disarmed, than the
'most despotick Laws with formidable Ar'mies to support them.

'Example is more efficacious in in'structing than Philosophy, more power'ful in persuading than Eloquence, it has
'more Authority than the Laws, and more
'Force than Armies; it convinces without
'Arguments, it persuades without speak'ings

- ing, and commands without Menaces; and
- it has been often observ'd, that it has made
- ' Proselytes of the most abandon'd Wretches,
- when all other Efforts prov'd ineffectual,
- even Reason itself: Example infinuates the
- · Law, not by the Magistrate's Command,
- but by his Life.
- ' The Lives of Governors and Magistrates
- may be faid to give motion to all others;
- 'all Classes of Men incline to that side
- where they turn the Ballance, whether to
- Virtue or to Vice, and that by their Ex-
- ample only. Men despise the dead Law,
- and cast their Eyes upon the Living only;
- which gave occasion to a Chancellor of
- one of the Gothic Kings to fay, * That 'tis
- easier for Nature to err, than for a Prince
- to form a Commonwealth unlike bimself.'

The worthy Magistrate who now governs the City, pursues the Dictates of the French Author, he establishes his own Commands by his Life and Manners, which in time will have a happy Influence over all other parts of the Kingdom, where there is little

^{*} Caffiodor.

little room to expect any Reformation, till an Essay is first made in the City of London, the Seat of the British Empire; as was once observed by a celebrated Preacher of the last Century, in a Dedication to a Lord Mayor:

- Reform London, fays he, My Lord, and
- ' you reform England; if London be wicked,
- ungodly, prophane, how will Prophane-
- ness flow from it, as from a Fountain,
- 'into the whole Kingdom'? On the other
- ' hand, if London be pious, religious, well-
- order'd, well-govern'd, and reform'd, how
- will all the Counties, Cities, Villages,
- 'Places, hasten to a Reformation?'

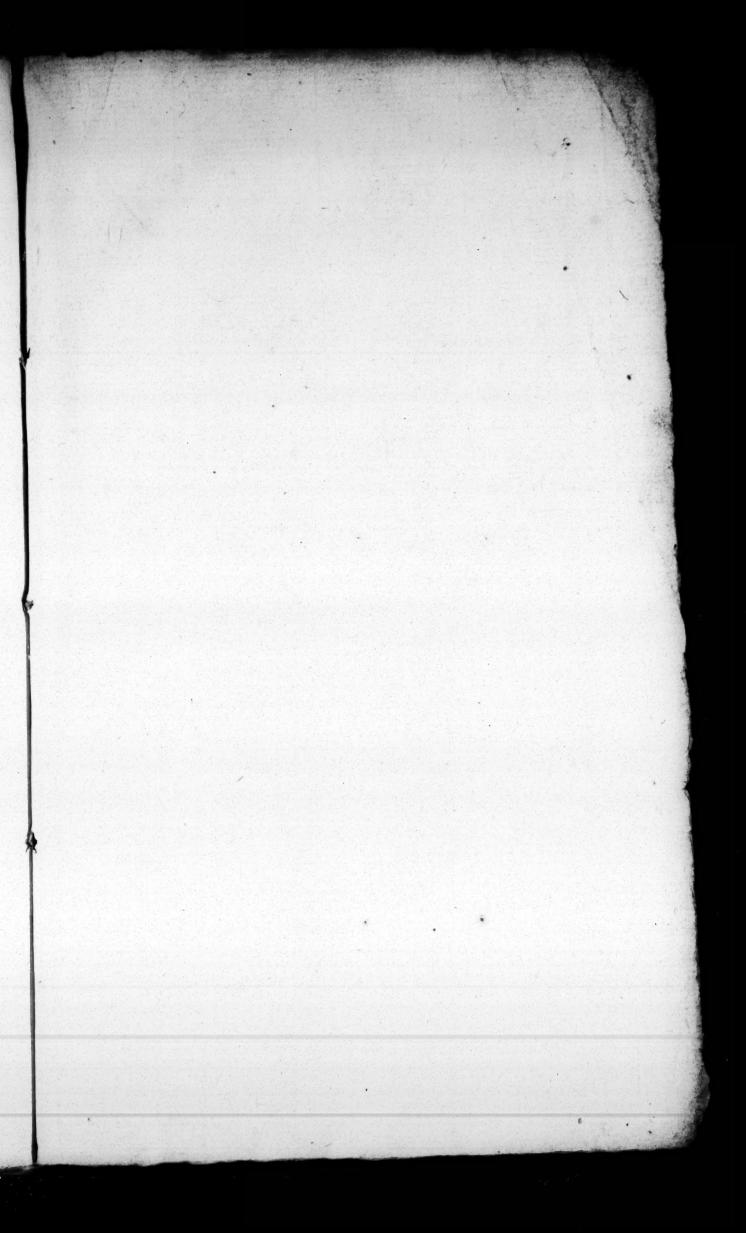
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